

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 192827
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY OES/NET/IM:DCOOPER/ACDA:JMENZEL:SMJ

APPROVED BY S/AS:P J FARLEY

S/S;JETHYDEN

D - MR. D. LAMB (SUBS)

AF/S - MR. D. KEOGH (INFO)

PM - MR. G OPLINGER (SUBS)

S/P - MR. J. KAHAN (SUBS)

ACDA/RWILLIAMSOMSON

T - MR. L. SCHEINMAN

OES NET LNOSENZO

-----041955 151810Z /50

P 151801Z AUG 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 192827

NODIS

EYES ONLY FOR AMUASSADOR STONE USIALA

E.O. 11652:XGDS-1

AGS: MNUC,US,SF,UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET DEMARCHE ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT
BY SAG

1. ON AUGUST 6, PRIOR TO RECENT PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT BY
TASS ON SAG NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES, USSR MADE PRIVATE DEMARCHE
TO U.S. ALLEGING THAT SAG WAS IN PROCESS OF CREATING A
NUCLEAR WEAPON AND CONSTRUCTING AN UNDERGROUND TESTING
FAC,LITY IN THE KALAHARI FOR A WEAPONS TEST. SIMILAR USSR
DEMARCHES WERE MADE TO HMG, GOF, AND FRG.

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2. IN LIGHT SPECIFICITY OF SOVIET CHARGES, FACT THAT IT
RAISED MATTER PRIVATELY WITH U.S. PRIOR TO ITS PUBLIC
RELEAS-, AND CLOSE COORDINATION OF DEMARCHES WITH OTHER
WESTERN GOVERNMENTS, U.S. DECIDEDIT COULD NOT DISMISS THE
ALLEGATION. IN RESPONSE TO 10 AUG U.S. DEMARCHE MADE IN
PRETORIA, SAG DENIED CHARGES BY REITERATING THAT NUCLEAR

ENERGY IN SOUTH AFRICA WILL BE USED FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES ONLY.

3. WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF ATTEMPTING TO VERIFY OR REFUTE THE SOVIET CHARGES. IN ANY CASE, HOWEVER, AS MISSION WILL APPRECIATE, WE CAN EXPECT TO BE QUESTIONED CLOSELY ON THIS MATTER BY CONGRESS AND OTHERS, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO

WHETHER THERE IS ANY POSSIBILITY THAT ANY U.S. ORIGIN MATERIAL MIGHT BE DIVERTED FOR NON-PEACEFUL USES IN SOUTH AFRICA. U.S. ERDA RECORDS INDICATE THAT, IN ROUND FIGURES, THE U.S. SUPPLIED SOUTH AFRICA WITH A TOTAL OF 104 KGS OF HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM DURING THE PERIOD 1965 THROUGH 1975, ALL UNDER IAEA SAFEGUARDS, FOR FUELING THE SAFARI-I RESEARCH REACTOR. OF THIS, IT IS CALCULATED ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION IN ERDA RECORDS THAT ABOUT 25 KILOGRAMS WERE BURNED UP THROUGH 1974; APPROXIMATELY 29 KILOGRAMS HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE U.K. AND 5 KILOGRAMS TO FRANCE IN THE FORM OF SPENT FUEL; ANOTHER 12 KILOGRAMS IN SPENT FUEL HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO THE U.S.; AND AS OF EARLY 1977 THE REMAINING U.S.-ORIGIN HEU FUEL IN SOUTH AFRICA CONSISTED OF ABOUT 5.5 KILOGRAMS IN THE SAFARI CORE, 23 KILOGRAMS IN SPENT FUEL, AND 4.5 KILOGRAMS IN FRESH FUEL. IN 1965, THE U.S. ALSO SUPPLIED 159 GRAMS OF PLUTONIUM CONTAINED IN A PU-BE NEUTRON SOURCE.

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4. ERDA IS RECHECKING ITS RECORDS AND CALCULATIONS TO UPDATE FOREGOING IN EFFORT TO ASSURE AVAILABILITY OF FULLY RELIABLE INFORMATION. AS A DOUBLE CHECK, HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF IMPORTANCE OF THIS MATTER, YOU ARE REQUESTED MAKE HIGHLY DISCREET APPROACH TO APPROPRIATE IAEA OFFICIAL(S) ON URGENT BUT CONFIDENTIAL BASIS WITH REQUEST FOR LATEST INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO AGENCY ON QUANTITIES, CHEMICAL FORMS, ISOTOPICS, LOCATIONS, AND USE CURRENTLY BEING MADE OF ALL SPECIAL NUCLEAR MATERIAL, BOTH HEU AND PU, OBTAINED BY SOUTH AFRICA FROM EXTERNAL SOURCES, AS WELL AS ANY OTHER INFORMATION IN AGENCY'S POSSESSION WHICH MIGHT ASSIST U.S. IN ITS ANALYSIS OF ANY POSSIBLE DIVERSION OF EXTERNALLY SUPPLIED SPECIAL NUCLEAR MATERIAL OR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN SUCH MATERIAL BY OTHER MEANS. THE U.S. WILL, OF COURSE, HOLD BOTH THE FACT THAT WE HAVE MADE THIS REQUEST AND ANY REPLY IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE. VANCE

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DRAFTED BY S/S-O:JTHYDEN:WLT

APPROVED BY S/S-O:JTHYDEN

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O 152025Z AUG 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 192827

NODIS

FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOL RPT STATE 192827 ACTION VIENNA 15 AUG 77 QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 192827

NODIS

EYES ONLY FOR AMBASSADOR STONE USIALA

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UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEMARCHE, NUCLEAR WEAPONS, NUCLEAR TESTS, NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES, ALLEGATIONS, CAT-A
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DCOOPER/ACDA:JMENZEL:SMJ
Enclosure: EYES ONLY FOR AMBASSADOR STONE USIALA
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840070-0128, P800020-0628
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1601026
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET DEMARCHE ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT BY SAG
TAGS: MNUC, PARM, US, SF, UR
To: VIENNA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3828635a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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